

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: LEGAL AID INSTITUTE HAILS GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR NEW
SECURITY LAW

1. THE LEGAL AID INSTITUTE (LBH) HAS APPLAUDED THE ANNOUNCE-
MENT BY COORDINATING MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS
GENERAL PANGGABEAN AUGUST 29 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW COL-
LECTING MATERIALS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A NEW BASIC LAW ON
NATIONAL SECURITY. LBH SPOKESMAN ABDURAHMAN SALEH TOLD RE-
PORTERS AUGUST 30 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION AND OTHERS HAVE LONG
APPEALED FOR A NEW LAW, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD REPLACE THE
PRESENT ANTI-SUBVERSION LAW AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE PENAL
CODE MAKING "SPREADING HATRED" A SUBVERSIVE ACT PUNISHABLE BY
IMPRISONMENT. HE SAID THE LBH NOTED PANGGABEAN'S STATEMENT
THAT THE NEW LAW WOULD BE IN THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST, AND
HOPED THAT THE LBH, THE INDONESIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS
WHO HAVE LONG CONTENDED WITH THE PRESENT REGULATIONS WOULD
HAVE A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN DRAFTING THE NEW LAW.

2. LBH CHAIRMAN BUYUNG NASUTION HAD STATED DURING A
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PUBLIC LECTURE AUGUST 26 THAT THE PRESENT ANTI-SUBVERSION
LAW INHERITED FROM THE SUKARNO REGIME IS ACTUALLY IN OPPO-
SITION TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE NEW ORDER ADMINISTRATION
AND SHOULD BE REVOKED, A SENTIMENT SHARED BY MOST UNIVER-
SITY STUDENTS AND MANY INTELLECTUALS IN INDONESIA. PRESI-
DENT SUHARTO MENTIONED THE NEED FOR A NEW SECURITY LAW IN
HIS AUGUST 17 INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS, BUT GAVE NO DE-

TAILS. PANGGABEAN, ASKED BY REPORTERS ABOUT REVOKING THE CURRENT ANTI-SUBVERSION STATUTE, REFUSED TO GIVE A DEFINITE ANSWER.

3. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED A BASIC LAW ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO PARLIAMENT IN 1967-68 WHICH FAILED TO OVERCOME THE OPPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED LAW IS A REVIVAL OF THAT EARLIER DRAFT, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE REVOCATION OF THE ANTI-SUBVERSION LAW. FINAL PREPARATION OF THE NEW LAW MAY REQUIRE SEVERAL MONTHS, BUT PANGGABEAN HAS REMARKED THAT A PRIMARY TASK OF THE CABINET IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY POLICY IS THE PREPARATION OF SUCH A LAW, AND HE HAS APPOINTED THREE SENIOR ASSISTANTS (FOR NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY, INTERNAL POLICY, AND FOREIGN POLICY) THIS WEEK TO HELP HIM EXPAND HIS OWN ROLE IN THIS AND OTHER PREPARATIONS AT THE CABINET LEVEL.
GARDNER

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